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PLE FOR OPEN SPACE

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Dear Fellow Open Space Enthusiast:

By all counts -- whether it was the music heard, food consumed, wine sipped, games played, swimming or visiting -- the experimental Picnic of People for Open Space at the Westerbeke Ranch near the town of Sonoma on June 12th was truly a success! Ask anyone who came.

Whether or not you were there, we want to share the picnic's success with you and let you know that our work to establish a regional greenbelt in the Bay Area received a large boost just after the picnic. On June 16, the San Francisco Foundation awarded POS a \$38,345 grant to help us in our effort to achieve the open space goals of the 1970 ABAG Regional Plan, and to encourage the implementation of strong local open space elements.

So we are on our way to help pin down big categories of land in the Bay Area -- either by regulation or acquisition -- as permanent Open Space. We must insure Open Space in our future -- OPEN SPACE WORKING FOR US as farms for food, hills for grazing, flood plains kept open for winter overflow and summer recreation, forest for protection of soil and underground water, earthquake faults kept open for safety and open landscapes to preserve air quality. Growth can be accommodated in our existing towns and cities. There is no more beautiful or healthful area on earth than the Bay Region; we must mobilize to keep it that way.

Hence the theme launched with the Picnic means <u>OPEN SPACE FOR PEOPLE</u>. We decided then and there that all present should consider themselves enrolled in a membership drive for the Greenbelt Dollar. Borrowing from the "Save San Francisco Bay Association" with its 20,000 members, we shall follow this method to get the support essential to impress our legislators. So, like a brush-fire of enthusiasm sweeping the Region, we will need to sign up the thousands it will take to do this job. It can be exciting to leap over this barrier of numbers!

As part of our efforts in the coming year, we will be sponsoring a number of special countywide workshops to determine how local open space plans and goals can be more effectively carried out - look to hear from us during the year!

So we are on our way. Thanks for your support - with it we can create a WORKING GREENBELT for the Bay Area.

TJ. Kent, Jr.

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